

In re Application of Arnold et al.  
Serial No. 09/815,877 – Filed March 23, 2001

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### REMARKS

The Board has remanded this application for consideration of the claims in view of US 5,075,910 ("Morten"). In particular the Board has decided that at least claim 34 is anticipated by Morten and that claims 34, 35, 54 and 56 are obvious over US 5,360,439 ("Dickerhoff") in view of Morten.

In response to the Board's Decision, claims 34, 35, and 57 are amended, and claim 56 is cancelled. Claims 34-37, 40, 44-47, 54, 57, 58, 61, 65-68, and 70 remain in the application.

Claim 34 is amended to recite "providing a planar plug". Morten's plug means 59 is shown in FIG. 5 as an elongated, cone-shaped wedge that plugs a hollow stem 57. The cone shape is necessary to wedge and retain the plug means in the hollow stem. The plug means 59 is not explicitly "planar", because it is not a flat level element. The plug means 59 is not inherently planar because a planar configuration would not be retained in the hollow stem 57. Accordingly, claim 34, as amended, is not anticipated by Morten.

Claim 35 is amended to recite that each inlet port includes "a planar sheet of flexible material attached to the inflatable cover and a hole through the sheet". In Morten, if the plug means 59 is the plug removably received in an inlet port, the inlet port must be the "hollow stem 57". In this case, the hollow stem is shown in FIG. 5 as an elongated hollow cylindrically-shaped element. See the same element in FIG. 2. The second valve means 63 is evidently an elongated cylindrical collar as seen in FIGS. 2 and 7. Neither valve means is "a planar sheet of flexible material" and "a hole through the sheet."

The construction of Dickerhoff's inlet ports is not described. Neither port evidently is, or includes, a "planar sheet of flexible material attached to the inflatable cover and a hole through the sheet."

Accordingly the proposed combination does not include all elements of the rejected claims.

With these amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims in the application are patentable over the references of record.

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Respectfully submitted,

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